



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN '98: LT. GOVERNOR'S RACE IS VERY DULL - JUST LIKE THE 5 LEADING CANDIDATES.

Editor's note: If there's one thing Demo & Republican insiders agree on, it's that the Lt. Governor's primary is a boring, ho-hum contest which is drawing little voter interest. Here is **Calpeek's** update & analysis...

...The new Field Poll (Apr. 20-28, among likely voters) sheds very little new info about how this down-ballot primary will eventually turn out. For comparison, we have lined up the Apr. 4-9 L.A. Times survey of likely voters...

	<u>Field</u>	<u>L.A. Times</u>
Cruz Bustamante(D)	17%	13%
Tony Miller(D)	6%	12%
Richard Mountjoy(R)	6%	7%
Tim Leslie(R)	6%	10%
Noel Irwin-Hentschel(R)	3%	1%

...Most insiders agree that on the Demo side Bustamante is a favorite over Miller. Miller just doesn't have the resources to compete with Bustamante...

...On the Republican side, the situation is much more complex and unsettled. State Sen. Tim Leslie(R) has raised **\$1.3 million**, is on most all of the key GOP slates and will launch a radio and tv campaign beginning May 11th. Leslie remains the favorite among GOP insiders for now, but this could change. The Field Poll suggests the race is still *wide open*...

...As for State Sen. Richard Mountjoy(R-Arcadia), the days of grassroots campaigning for statewide office have long since disappeared, but he remains optimistic. Sources say Mountjoy probably takes votes away from Leslie. With limited resources, Mountjoy is considered a long shot to win the nomination. This brings us to businesswoman Noel Irwin-Hentschel, the most interesting of the 3 GOP candidates...

...Irwin-Hentschel is just a blip on the radar scope. She describes herself as a Reagan Republican, but hardline conservatives are not totally comfortable with her on some issues, such as guns. But the big questions in terms of her campaign have always been: does she have *deep pockets* and is she willing to spend it? Reports show I-H pumped in \$100,000 of her own and her campaign began airing radio & tv spots May 6th. The campaign claims that it will spend **\$1 million** in a statewide media blitz over the next 3 weeks. In addition to radio & tv, I-H's campaign sent an A/V-bio mailer to 600,000 GOP households. They've just begun to hit. The next set of surveys should be more informative. Stay tuned...

GOVERNOR'S DEBATE SET FOR MAY 13 IN L.A.

The first gubernatorial debate of *Campaign '98* will be conducted from 10:30 a.m. to noon, May 13, at the Harry Chandler Auditorium in downtown L.A. The gubernatorial forum is called "On the Record" and is hosted by the *L.A. Times*. CSPAN will air the debate live and the *LAT* is offering the a live feed to all radio & tv stations via satellite at no cost. Candidates will include Demos Al Checchi, Gray Davis & Jane Harman and GOPER Dan Lungren...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON U.S. SENATE CONTEST.

Editor's note: This U.S. Senate primary is one of the *dullest* top-of-the-ticket races in recent memory. At least that's the conclusion of a number of **Calpeek** sources. Here's our update & analysis, with the new numbers from pollster Mervin Field(Apr. 20-28)...

...U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D) doesn't have a primary opponent and she's not really come under a bruising attack from her two remaining GOP opponents, San Diego businessman Darrell Issa and CA Treasurer Matt Fong. But all this will change dramatically on June 3rd.

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In the meantime, Boxer has just over **\$3 million** in the bank and continues to prepare for the fall campaign...

...Now for the new Field Poll. Just for comparison, we'll show you the results of the *L.A. Times* poll taken in mid-April.

	<u>Field</u>	<u>LAT</u>
Boxer(D)	43%	42%
Issa(R)	18%	20%
Fong(R)	14%	12%
Undecided	20%	19%
Others	5%	7%

...Since March, Issa has held a slim lead over Fong for the GOP nomination. But in the 1-on-1 matches, Fong continues to do better than Issa, but Boxer defeats both: Boxer **48%** vs. **39%** for Issa; and Boxer **47%** vs. **41%** for Fong. For this reason, there are some GOP sources who believe Fong still has a shot at winning the nomination --- and that would be an upset...

...The one thing that continues to astound some neutral GOP consultants is that Issa, with his *deep pockets*, has yet to "blow Matt away," despite the fact that Fong doesn't have as much money in the bank as U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez(D-Orange Co.) --- and thus isn't on tv and won't be until the final two weeks. Issa, on the other hand, has spent millions on early radio and tv. His new law & order :30-sec. spot is just fair (who isn't for putting drug dealers in jail for selling dope to kids?). It's expected that Issa will spend a **million per week** on tv in the final two weeks...

...Is there anything wrong with Issa's campaign? It might be *sour grapes* by other consultants, but the complaint is that Issa's campaign message is uneven and that the entire day-to-day operation is *amateurish*. That's why, according to these sources, he's been unable to jump ahead of Fong by 8-10 points. But few are impressed with Fong's campaign either and in fact some now say Fong just wasn't ready for *prime time*...

...FYI: In recent days, Issa's campaign has been faxing the same memo about Fong: "We challenge Matt Fong to prove he has ever owned any type of small business." Issa's got a pretty good op-research effort and they say the SOS's corporate index has no record of MKF Enterprises; nor does the Franchise Tax Board or the Bd. of Equalization. Interesting. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON HOT ASSEMBLY RACES.
Editor's note: Here is Part IV in our continuing coverage of hot CA State Assembly primary races...

☒ **37th AD Update** - By now most political insiders know about GOP candidate Rich Sybert being videotaped tearing down GOP rival Tony Strickland's signs and **lying** to the news media about it. Most sources say Sybert is *political toast*. Here's the scoop. Strickland's campaign suspected Sybert for some time, but decided to follow him one night. They caught him on videotape and sent the tape to Assemblyman Tom McClintock (Strickland's campaign chair), who said he couldn't absolutely ID Sybert and told Strickland to go out again. Sources say Strickland wasn't sure Sybert would do it again, but the next night they videotaped him tearing down more signs. The next day Strickland's team **set up** Sybert with a statement claiming that Sybert was the one responsible for tearing down the Strickland signs. Sybert bit (he lied) and the trap was sprung. The *Ventura County Star* editorially ripped Sybert --- but the poor *L.A. Daily News*: they endorsed Sybert the day the story broke in the *L.A. Times*. FYI: Ventura Co. DA Mike Bradbury's office **won't** prosecute Sybert on misdemeanor vandalism charges...

☒ **9th AD** - This is Demo turf belonging to Deborah Ortiz(D-Sacto), now running for the 6th SD. There are 5 Demos running, with Councilman and Admin. Law Judge Darrell Steinberg alone in the top tier. He is supported by Ortiz, Sacto Mayor Joe Serna and Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa. In the 2nd tier (and aiming to break through to challenge Steinberg) are union lobbyist/SMUD director Robert Pernell, who has raised lots of money; former CTA lobbyist Alice Huffman, a close ally of Willie Brown; and France Gracechild, a well known healthcare advocate who has been endorsed by the Sacto County DSA and the local SEIU. Les Cochren is the other Demo...

☒ **35th AD** - If there's a seat the GOP is worried about in November, this is it. Currently held by GOP Assemblyman Brooks Firestone, the popular Santa Barbara lawmaker is calling it a career after an unsuccessful run for the 22nd CD earlier this year. The top Demo is family law attorney and former Dep. DA Hannah-Beth Jackson, who is supported by PORAC and COPS, plus Demo U.S. Rep. Lois Capps and State Sen. Jack O'Connell. On the GOP side, there are

3 rivals: Huffington ally and businessman David Lack, who is already up on tv; actor Chris Mitchum (Robert's son), who is pro-voucher/pro gun; and school board member Alan Lanny Ebenstein, who is making YES on 227 his key issue. *Toss up* between Ebenstein and Lack in the GOP primary...

☒ **30th AD** - This is the old Jim Costa seat that was captured by Brian Setencich(R) in '94 --- and then lost by Setencich in the '96 GOP primary. The 30th AD is currently represented by Robert Prenter Jr.(R), but the numbers suggest this seat leans Demo, with a 51.5% registration advantage. Shafter businessman Dean Florez, 34, is the Demo to beat in this race. He describes himself as a conservative Demo. The other Demo is Greg Norris, who doesn't have any money. With no GOP primary, some sources say it's possible the GOP could be preparing to ambush Florez with a huge IE campaign on Norris' behalf...

CAMPAIGN '98: NEW POLLING ON 223, 226 & 227.

Editor's note: Pollster Mervin Field has released some new data on three of the initiatives facing voters this June: Prop. 223 - the 95/5 initiative; Prop. 226 - the so-called paycheck protection initiative; and Prop. 227 - the Unz initiative aimed at eliminating bilingual education in Calif. The Field Poll was taken Apr. 20 to 28, among 649 likely voters. Here's our update & analysis...

☒ **Prop. 226** - Pres. Bill Clinton announced his **opposition** to this measure May 4th. In the new Field Poll, YES on 226 continues to lead, but the lead is down substantially from last November when it had 72% support. The current numbers are YES 55% vs. NO 34%. In March, the Field Poll showed YES at 60%. FYI: NO on 226 began its tv advertising campaign the day after Field started this new survey. And NO on 226 has a new spot, which is more to the point than the original ad, which some sources thought was only fair in getting across a message...

☒ **Prop. 227** - The Unz Initiative to end the current system of teaching English to non-English speaking kids in public schools continues to lead by a huge margin, 71% vs. 21%. Pres. Clinton also has announced his **opposition** to this measure. Among Hispanics, YES on 227 leads with 58%. In the opinion of some

Calpeek sources, Unz would have never gotten off the ground with 227 had the Latino Caucus not been so opposed to Sen. Dede Alpert's bilingual education reform bill in 1997. SB 6 finally passed a few days ago and was on Gov. Wilson's desk as **Calpeek** hit deadline. He's leaning toward 227 and may veto SB 6. FYI: Ron Unz will debate UC Education School Dean Eugene Garcia, 7 p.m., May 20, in Santa Rosa. For info ☎ (800)847-7730...

☒ **Prop. 223** - The 95/5 initiative, which requires school districts to spend no more than 5% of their budgets on administrative costs, continues to slip in the new Field Poll. YES on 223 still leads: 50% vs. 31%, but was at 55% in the *L.A. Times* poll in mid-April. NO on 223's paid media campaign begins May 11th...

...FYI: Neither the *L.A. Times* nor Field are polling on **Prop. 224** - the so-called Competitive Bidding Initiative. NO on 224 has been on radio (heavy buy statewide) for the past week, pounding away. Our best guess is that 224 is leading in the private polls, based on ballot title & summary. But the numbers are probably sliding downward. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATING COUNTY SHERIFF RACES.

Editor's note: There are 12 sheriffs who decided to retire in '98 rather than seek reelection. One of those who called it a career was Brad Gates of Orange Co. We'll update this open seat and the huge battle between L.A. Co. Sheriff Sherman Block and 3 challengers...

◆ **Orange Co.** - No runoff in this two man battle between O.C. Marshal Michael Carona and Santa Ana Police Chief Paul Walters. So far Brad Gates has not taken sides, but the powerful Assn. of O.C. Deputy Sheriffs is backing Walters. The deputies are furious with Carona because he called them union goons during a recent debate. More than 200 deputies turned up the past two weekends to walk precincts for Walters. The field operation/GOTV effort is critical for Walters because Carona has raised much more money, although sources say Walters will get independent expenditure funds. Sources expect Carona to be on most all of the GOP slates. FYI: The Assn. of O.C. Deputy Sheriffs paid for a survey (400 likely voters/early April conducted by Competitive Edge in San Diego). Both candidates are unknown, but after a series of experience and endorsement "push questions," Walters leads by a

49.6% vs. 12.3% margin. In a straight 1-on-1 match w/o push questions, the race is even...

(almost identical to the one on the June '98 ballot). All these measures are expected to qualify...

◆ **L.A. County** - Until very late April, Sheriff's chief Lee Baca had been considered incumbent Sherman Block's key rival in this 4-candidate field. And the betting was *even* that Block would be forced into a runoff with Baca. But in late April the *L.A. Times* broke a frontpage story with this headline: ***Sheriff Says Foe Offered Him a Deal to Quit Race***. Shades of Fiedler vs. Davis back in '86. The day after the story broke, Baca tried to take back his statement, but it just made a bad situation worse. Sources say Baca's momentum has been stopped and now former Sheriff's chief Bill Baker will try to take advantage of Baca's misfortune. Because L.A. Co. DA Gil Garcetti is supporting Block, Baker has requested the AG to investigate the allegations. And guess who has been left *twisting in the wind*? If you said the *L.A. Times*, you win. It's a slam dunk the paper will **not** support Block again. And our sources are convinced the paper was leaning toward Baca. But with Baca on the ropes, what will the *LAT* do? Baker is hoping they might give him a second look. FYI: Baca will appear on 14 slates with a combined circulation of 4.3 million, while Block will be on at least 12 slates with around 5 million circulation. Baker will be on 3-4 slates. Stay tuned...

◆ **Unknown** - A statute to nullify key parts of the utility deregulation law was still on the street in some counties as **Calpeek** hit deadline. Proponents say petitions have been submitted to some of the large counties, but the drive was not due to end until May 8th. Sources aren't sure if this initiative will make it. If it does, it will be the **8th** initiative on the fall ballot...

◆ **Not On the Nov. 3rd Ballot** - 1) Gov. Wilson's juvenile crime initiative won't be on the November '98 ballot, but it's still on the street collecting signatures for the June 2000 ballot; and 2) Charter Schools initiative. The petitions for this initiative were not submitted because proponents were able to get the legislature to pass Assemblyman Ted Lempert's AB 544, which accomplished most of what the measure proposed and eliminated the flaws as well. The lawmakers who made this work were Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, GOP Assembly Leader Bill Leonard and Senate President Pro Tem John Burton - plus Assembly Educ. Cmt. Chair Kerry Mazzoni and Sen. Dede Alpert. Politically, had the initiative gone on the ballot, the powerful Calif. Teachers Assn. (CTA) might have spent \$5-6 million to defeat this proposal. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: LOOKING AT THE BALLOT MEASURE LINEUP FOR NOVEMBER. 7 INITIATIVES PROBABLE.

Editor's note: In checking with various sources, it now appears likely there will be at least 7 citizen-sponsored initiatives on the Nov. 3rd ballot --- and perhaps even 8. Here's our update...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of these notes in our file...

● The San Diego Group, a political consulting firm, has hired Jennifer Bates. She's the daughter of former Congressman Jim Bates(D-San Diego)...

● Johnnie Perkins, former San Diego city hall staffer, and Tim Chelling, an Emmy-winning tv editorial writer, have joined Nelson Communications in the firm's San Diego office...

● Emma Schafer's pr/pa firm & the L.A. Current Affairs Forum have moved to 800 Wilshire Blvd., #350, L.A. CA 90017. ☎(213)627-7427...

● Walter P. Gray III has been named chief of the CA State Archives & Museum Division in the Secretary of State's office...

◆ **Already Qualified** - 1) Body-gripping traps and a ban on animal poisons...

◆ **Being Counted** - 2) Indian gaming initiative (slightly more than 1 million names were submitted to county registrars, with only 433,269 required); 3) Ban on slaughter of horses and sale of horsemeat; 4) The Rob Reiner initiative to hike the tobacco tax by 50-cents a pack with the money for early childhood programs; 5) Gov. Wilson's education initiative (turned in May 4th); 6) Air emissions tax credits, submitted by the Planning & Conservation League; 7) Elections. Term Limits, declaration for congressional candidates